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THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY.

The great storm that had been raging suddenly ceased, the clouds broke away and the sunlight in full glory flooded the room when the plenipotentiaries finally signed the treaty of peace. When signed the sullen guns at the navy yards of Portsmouth suddenly became vibrant and roared out a salute which rang like a solemn benediction upon the work performed. Such is the substance of the dispatch announcing the signing of the treaty of peace between Russia and Japan. It was a great event, the simple details that accompanied it were really about as dramatic as they could have been made had their purpose been to make them striking and historic. On its face it was merely the signing of a contract, but when we think what was involved it takes on new impressiveness. Six hundred thousand men were waiting with ears to the ground for the result. On the one hand it meant that one-fourth of them were to die in another long-drawn-out battle for supremacy, on the other it meant that suddenly their minds were to be enchanted with visions of home and loved ones. On the one hand it meant a continued struggle through the red flames of war for territory, for commercial supremacy and for prestige, on the other it meant the songs of praise and the industries of peace, the charm of home and the love which generous people give their defenders.

Then the situation was striking. The soil they stood on had been consecrated to freedom. They were awed by no courts, no kings; the flag above them symbolized nothing but peace, equal rights to all men and the measureless power that comes to a people when no obstacle is in their path and every man is a sovereign. We wish that while the signing was in progress the school children of Portsmouth could have gathered outside the hall and sung a carol to peace.

We wish that the boom of the guns that pulsated in joy over the signing of the treaty might have been picked up by wireless telegraphy and could have rung out full and clear in the air over the waiting armies in far-off Manchuria. It would have been meet greeting from the great republic. And we fancy that could some sublimated eyes there have been watching they would have seen above the clouds and through the sunbeams, the forms of Mercy and Justice and Love watching and through tears rejoicing that a consummation,

which did away with war, had been reached; that they were watching and intoned the praise service that followed the signing.

We hope that the plenipotentiaries have picked up some ideas since they reached our shores, and that Witte at least will have the strength on reaching home to tell his emperor that perfect liberty to a nation secures not only the highest type of manhood, but the most perfect fidelity to country and respect for law.

The treaty marks a new departure in diplomacy. From the president the commissioners all received the impression that a square deal was the rightful thing, and that everything else except principle must be waived to compass peace, that such a result was possible, else they had not been sent, and that the lives of tens of thousands of men, and possibly the peace of the world, hung upon the result.

And it was accomplished and the final signing was in the full glare of the evening sun. We hope that sunlight after the storm was an omen of peace, one of the harbingers of the dawn that is to usher in the day "when the nations shall learn war no more."

UTILIZE THE PARK WATER.

Our thought is that the Commercial Club, as the most potential representative of the business men of the city, should interpose and protest against the reckless work of the Salt Lake City council. An instance of that recklessness was seen last week when Councilman Fernstrom introduced a sewer ordinance and insisted that it be passed at once, though it was changed in two important particulars from any plan that had ever been considered.

There is another matter which the business men should assert themselves upon. That is the water above Liberty park. They should insist that some competent man be asked to examine and report upon both its quantity and quality, such engineers as Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Brooks. There are plenty of engineers who believe that more water can be obtained there than the entire flow of City creek, Parley's creek, Emigration canyon and the Cottonwoods carry in the season of low water.

With the Cottonwood waters brought in the situation five years hence will be just what it now is. If all the water received from all the running streams can be duplicated without serious cost it should be done.

The city of Dayton, O., is supplied with water by pumping. It is a city of about 90,000 people. The total cost last year of pumping, keeping machinery in repair, etc., was only \$22,000, or less than our present system costs to maintain. Eighty-six per cent of the cities of this country are supplied with water through pumping. In Liberty park no pumping would be required through the major portion of the year only—say three months in summer and one in winter.

A friend calls attention to Professor Gilbert's lecture, delivered here some fifteen years ago in which he described a mighty phenomenon through which a portion of this region was either thrown up on one side of a great fault in the rocks, or lowered on the other, and described the line of cleavage of this fault as beginning some distance north of the city. Coming along near the Beck's Hot Springs, through this city about on the line

through the temple grounds, and on to where the line of the fault can be seen early at Little Cottonwood. Of course every miner knows how often faults are found in mines usually running southeast and northwest. Now this friend's idea is that this great fault described by Professor Gilbert made a fissure which arrests and receives the flow of all the waters of all the fissures from the hills, and that it here and there finds an outlet like the Beck's Hot Springs, which must come from the depths, like the great spring above Bishop Burton's place between Mill Creek and Big Cottonwood—and the water above Liberty park, and these will never cease so long as water runs in fissures in the hills, unless some other great upheaval changes the face of nature in this region.

Hence we say, go on with the Cottonwood scheme so soon as it is fixed on a scientific and business basis, but do not neglect this artesian well supply. A few hundred dollars will demonstrate whether it is pure or not, a few thousand dollars will make it supply one-third of the city and demonstrate its inexhaustibility, and this can be done before the severe weather of the winter comes on, and may save the city then from a water famine which at present is a constant menace in cold weather. If, too, with that work done, the expectations of engineers are realized, if it is proved possible that those wells can be made to yield a supply equal to all the water now received in the city when the creeks are at a low stage, then five years hence their waters can be thrown into the Thirteenth street reservoir and the anxiety about water will be settled for this generation. The sneer that they are surface water is pointless because they come from the hills and where tapped are very deep, and really are as much springs as though found on a mountain side.

NATIONAL GUARD AFFAIRS.

It is only a straw, but it shows the tendency of things. The recent churning up of the National Guard in Utah, when stripped of all disguises, merely means that the purpose is to eliminate all Gentiles from the organization as quickly as possible. Even the commander will not hold his place long unless he obeys counsel.

When the war with Spain came on more than 60 per cent of the Utah volunteers were Gentiles, though probably in the state, of the whole population the Gentiles did not exceed 35 per cent. It would probably be the same were another call made, but it is clear that no Gentiles are wanted in the state guard. It would be hard to understand the reason for this were anyone else president of the dominant church. In the present case the explanation lies in the fact that the unexpected is what must be looked for. He does not know that the Guard will ever be called out, but should it be for any purpose, the president of the church wants to feel that he would have as much authority as the president of the United States. Twenty-five years ago, when given a chance to speak in the tabernacle, he was in the habit of telling the people to save their money and buy guns. No one can tell what dreams he is indulging in now. The first Joseph organized a little army, invented a flag and had himself elected lieutenant general. The three performances were distinctive acts of sovereignty. It is needless to